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THE CONTRIBUTION OF ITALIANS TO THE STUDY OF ARCHITECTURE OF MEDIEVAL AZERBAIJAN

Abstract. It is possible to judge by the level of the development of architectural art of medieval Azerbaijan according to hundreds of works of architecture and remarkable towns testifying to its role and significance as one of big centres of artistic culture of the East. The importance of the study of the “journey literature” (Catholic missions, with “military aims” and others) is doubtless, one of its main aspects is the attempt for the creation of objective picture of the history of architecture of medieval period. Memories, notes, accounts and diaries of travellers (missionaries, scientists, merchants, envoys) make possible to fill information about the lost or altered monuments of Azerbaijan architecture, panorama of towns frequently drawn by them. It is an enormous many-sided material which hasn’t lost its cognitive value, it attracts by the trustworthiness of the stated, thoroughly adjusted, brightly and convincingly written.

At the same time it is necessary to tell that the greater part of the preserved material which is in the museums and big universities of West European countries has not been translated yet.

It is not surprising that the interest of travellers was not by chance, these territories were actively studied with a certain purpose were different from economically advantageous to political – ideological information.

In the article the author has an attempt to designate memoirs gathered in “Travel notes of Italians in Iran” (the authors Katerino Zeno, Giosafat Barbaro, Amborjio Kontarini, Vincenzo Allesandi, Giovanni Dario as well as an anonymous merchant), architectural notes (monuments, panoramas of towns) made up a certain part, though not numerous, many of them are lost.

Key woords: architecture, city, palaces, source studu material, traveller.

Introduction. The preservation of cultural identity has now acquired a special sharpness. Successive-evolutional way of development of architecture is natural and organic at the present stage of social-economic progress of our country. New and little known factual data on Azerbaijan architecture accumulated during the past years give on enormous initial base for the interpretation and analysis of new problems which are raised.

Source study material – memoirs, accounts, messages, reports, travel notes, information of West European travellers (scientists, merchants, envoys, missionaries), based mainly on personal observations and partly on stories of empowered persons make it possible to fill information gap about the lost or modified monuments of architecture, panorama and surroundings of towns frequently they have sketched. It is a primary golden fund allowing in a certain degree to supply the news about the lost monuments, or confirm and supplement that we see in the preserved masterpieces.

At the same time its greater part is not translated and remains in the book depositaries of big museums and Universities of the world not in the least losing its cognitive value. It attracts by the truth worthiness of the stated, thoroughly adjusted and convincingly written. Memoirs are different according to content and form and that's why are so interesting and valuable.

Permanent striving of West Europeans (travellers and others) to penetrate, experience and derive benefit for themselves and for their countries originates from olden times. Among West European travellers of the Middle Ages and later periods who were in a series Eastern countries, including Azerbaijan, Italians occupy a significant place – Piero Querini, Arcangelo Lamberti, Diego de urra Conca, Veccetti brothers and others.

The interpretation of the main material. Already in the XI century Italian merchants “going far to the East” (Bartold V.V.) became emissaries of the world trade and where dominating place belonged to venetians and genoeses who had trading stations in the Mediterranean, the Black and the Azov seas.

Heroic dead of venetian Marco Polo (1254-1324) who narrates in “The Book about the variety of the world” the history of his travel through countries of Asia falls on the XIII century. He was twice (in 1272, 1294-1295) in Tabriz (South Azerbaijan), a big megapolis of the East. Genoeses and venetians still in the XIV century mastered the way through the Caspian sea (which Ambrogio Contarini, Giosafat Barbaro, Ruy Gonzales de Calvijo name Baku sea “maredi Bachau”, “Mar de Bacu”) invariably buying the best silks

produced in Ganja and Shamakhy sailing as far as Gilan for a famous raw silk. Under Sheikh Uveys Jalairid (1356-1374) genoese merchants had estates in South Azerbaijan and intended to build a castle near Tabriz [3, p.197].

“Trading business” composed by Flerentine Pegolotti in 1340 was to some degree a guidance for Italian merchants being in the East. There was composed a map by Picigani brothers (1364), as well as the map of Venetian cosmograph Fra Mauri.

The time of replacing each other of Venetian ambassadors which is in details stated in their reports and thorough accounts falls on the complicated contradictory period of military confrontations of Ottomans and Agh-Goyunlu state, then Safavi. Venetians went to Agh-Goyunlu state by ship and by train, they were in many towns and populated areas of the country – in Tabriz, Sultaniya, Shamakhy, Derbent, Baku and others. The closest interaction of artistic cultures of the East and the West, the inclusion of Azerbaijan into the world system of the Silk Way is one of remarkable achievements of the epoch. The inner and outer trade was the most important part of the state economy, its main source. The intensity of caravan trade, the expansion of commercial and cultural spaces was especially actual in the Middle Ages.

In the “Travel notes of Venetians in Iran” there is given vast information on the history of international relations between western and eastern countries, historical geography, economy of Agh-Goyunlu state, about shah’s army and his equipment, about mode of life and traditions of the population, irrigation system, culture and art. The book is composed by the authors Katerino Zeno, Vincenzo Allessandi, Ambrogio Contarini, Josaphat Barbaro, having been in Agh-Goyunlu state, later in Safavi state as ambassadors, as well as anonymous merchant. Here are given valuable little known and unknown facts about Azerbaijan architecture which are of great interest to us [1].

Agh-Goyunlu state’s might, trade routes, rich markets and splendid courtyard of rulers invariably attracted here diplomats, dealers, missionaries from many countries. The wars which were carried on, amended their corrections, in particular mutual embassies became more frequent. Jiovani Dario (July 9-10, 1485) depicts the palace ceremony of ambassadors’ reception from various countries and adds, “... magnificent courtyard which such a great number of ambassadors very tires”. Among various missions there were secret instructions for ambassadors. For instance, concrete tasks about the collection of thorough information about the age, health, skill to carry out state affairs and fighting spirit of Uzun Hasan, geographic position and borders of his country, profits, fighting efficiency of the

army and everything “you consider to be necessary... Do thus” [1]. Polite attitude of the ruler who “even granted a right to share a meal with him every day” is very likely explained by related treatment of the ambassador with Uzun Hasan’s wife.

Josaphat Barbaro’s prolonged stay in the country was connected with Uzun Hasan’s disposition to him and whose advices and judgements were evidently interesting to him. He wrote about the ruler’s palace, his luxurious residence forestalled by front doors through which one could find himself in a small building (premises) in 4-5 passes where there were retainers (guards?) [4]. One more gate led to a charming garden surrounded with the wall of brick overcoming which one can find himself in the courtyard and where there was a large loggia with a beautiful mozaics, figured reservoir and fountain [4]. According to J. Barbaro’s information, invitations to visit the palace or to go for a trip on hunting followed one another. In one of these episodes he writes: “When I was with him...(Uzun Hasan), another time I found him in a chamber and then he asked me how I liked it, I answered him that it seemed beautiful and as its might is more than ours and as for as we don’t use such chambers. It was really beautiful and was well made of wood in the form of the dome, trimmed up of silk textiles, embroidered and gilded, in the inner part covered with wonderful carpets. Its circumference is about 14 passes. Above this chamber there is a large square embroidered cover stretched on four trees which makes shadow. Between it and the dome there is a beautiful marquee of boccacine (textile - R. A.) trimmed up and embroidered everywhere. The carved door of the chamber is of sandalwood, encrusted with golden wire and nacre [4].

In 1471 J.Barbaro was sent to Shirvan by Venetian republic. In 1479 he was in an ancient town Derbent about which he wrote that he (Alexander ?) built “... a castle and two walls till the water... and the width of the town form one gate till another one was 2-2,5 miles (Kozubski E.I) [1] J.Barbaro writes “about big commercial turnovers in Sultaniya “... big caravans of camels with goods gather here every year, especially in summer... big caravans of camels bringing goods”. Then he writes “the town itself is thinly populated, it hasn’t got walls and is well-supplied with water... The castle in the town, the circumference of which forms a mile surrounded with firm walls, is dilapidated...A big castle in it has a firm stone wall, pointed towers which were trimmed up with bright beautiful tiles...

(1)Pass- literally a step, usually as a measure of the length of pair steps. In Venice the pass was equal to 5 feet- 1,74m.

(2) The circumference of the chamber was more than 24m.

In Sultaniya there is a big high mosque, a big dome of this mosque is bigger than the dome of the church of saint John and Pavel in Venice... The mosque has 4 vaults and 4 high domes. One of these domes (buildings or premises, R.A) at the and has a copper door, three passes high, trimmed up with tracery carving. Inside there are many graves of sovereigns, who governed in former times. To the south of this door there is one more premises like it, on each side two smaller ones. Their folds are of copper, and they are covered with beautiful carved patterns in their style. Inside of them there is gold and silver, it is really worth of surprise" [4].

Anonymous Venetian merchant (he remained in Iran since 1511 up to 1520) engaged in trade in Derbent and in Tabriz gave a short history of the capital the circumference of which is approximately 24 miles. He wrote with delight about the famous palace Hasht-Behisht, pointed out that constructions of the palace complex built in a huge park were in ensemble building with a big hospital, as well as with skillfully decorated cult edifices [1].

Vincenzo Allesandi who was also the ambassador (the second half of the XVI c.) gave a large information about the location of Tabriz situated on the vast hilly locality noted that in the suburbs of the city there were blooming gardens. He also informed that there were "45 streets in the city each of which was like a beautiful garden, as there were many various trees,... a lot of magnificent sorts of fruits", wrote about the climate that "the weather was mild there in winter and summer", as well as about magnificent bazaars and numerous goods which were brought there [1].

Conclusion. Ambrogio Kontarini – the traveller and writer, Venetian diplomat with the solution of the government was sent to Uzun Hasan on February, 1474 and already on November of that year he arrived in Isfahan in order to meet with the ruler. In his memoirs he informed about the palace where the audience was assigned by the ruler, the walls of his reception hall were covered with monumental painting. "On this picture we saw how he (Abu Said) (timurid?) was tied up and brought to Ughurlu Mohammad (Uzun Hasan's son, R.A) for the execution"- he informed [1]. When he was in Tabriz Ambrogio Kontarini described majestic building and constructions built there, gave consideration to roads of one of trade capitals of the East. It should be noted that the rulers of the countries in every way possible promoted the improvement of the roads as the industry of caravan trade was first-rate source of the state's income. The roads were repaired, the maps of countries

with the indication of the important points and trade ways with their generally accepted names were drawn up [2, p. 119]. Speaking about Sultaniya as a big trade centre, Ambrogio Kontarini described in details an enormous market with various goods bringing in the ruler huge income.

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Rayihə Əmənəzadə (Azərbaycan)

Azərbaycanın orta əsr memarlığının tədqiqinə italyanların töhfəsi

Orta əsr Azərbaycan memarlıq sənətinin inkişaf səviyyəsi barədə, yüzlərlə memarlıq əsəri və çox gözəl şəhərləri əsasında, Şərqi bədii mədəniyyətinin ən iri mərkəzlərindən biri kimi onun rolu və əhəmiyyəti haqqında mühakimə yürütmək olar “Səyahət ədəbiyyatı” (katolik missiyaları, “hərbi” məqsədlə və.s) tədqiqinin əhəmiyyəti şübhəsizdir, onun əsas aspektlərindən biri orta əsr memarlıq tarixinin obyektiv mənzərəsini yaratmaqdır. Xatirələr, məktublar, hesabatlar səyyahların (missioner, alim, tacir, diplomatik nümayəndələrin) gündəlikləri Azərbaycanın itirilmiş, yaxud şəkli dəyişdirilmiş abidələri, şəhərlərin çox vaxt özləri tərəfindən çəkilmiş mənzərələri barədə məlumatı tamamlamağa imkan verir. Bu, öz idrak dəyərini itirməmiş möhtəşəm, hərtərəfli materialdır, o, şərh edilmiş, mükəmməl yoxlanılmış, parlaq və inandırıcı şəkildə yazılmış materialın şərhiliyi ilə diqqəti cəlb edir. Eyni zamanda demək lazımdır ki qərbi Avropa ölkələrinin muzey və iri universitetlərində yerləşən materialın çox hissəsi hələ də tərcümə olunmamışdır.

Təəccüblü deyil ki, səyyahların marağı təsadüfi deyildi bu ərazilər müəyyən məqsədlə tədqiq olunurdu. Onlar iqtisadi cəhətdən xeyirli siyasi-ideoloji, müxtəlif çeşidli informasiyanın toplanmasına qədər müxtəlif idi.

Məqalədə müəllif tərəfindən İtaliya səfirlərinin yazdığı “Venesiyalıların İranda yol məktubları”nda toplanmış xatirələri göstərməyə cəhd edilmişdir (“müəlliflər- Katerino Dzeno, İosafat Barbaro, Ambroco Kontarini, Vincentso Alessandri, Ciovanni Dario, həmçinin adsız tacir), memarlıq qeydləri (abidələr, şəhərlərin mənzərələri) onların müəyyən, ancaq azsaylı hissəsini təşkil edir onlardan çoxu artıq yoxdur.

Açar sözlər: memarlıq, şəhər, saraylar, mənbəşünaslıq materialı, səyahətçilər.

Райха Амензаде (Азербайджан)

Вклад итальянцев в изучение архитектуры средневекового Азербайджана

Об уровне развития зодческого искусства средневекового Азербайджана можно судить по сотням произведений архитектуры и замечательным городам, свидетельствующим о его роли и значимости как одного из крупнейших центров художественной культуры Востока. Важность изучения «литературы путешествий» (католические миссии, с «военной» целью и др.) несомненна, одним из его главных аспектов является попытка создания объективной картины истории архитектуры средневекового периода. Мемуары, записки, отчеты и дневники путешественников (миссионеров, ученых, купцов, посланников) позволяют восполнить информацию об утраченных либо видоизмененных памятниках архитектуры Азербайджана, панораме городов, зачастую ими зарисованных. Это огромный разносторонний материал не утративший своей познавательной ценности, он привлекает достоверностью изложенного, тщательно выверенного, ярко и убедительно написанного. Вместе с тем необходимо сказать, что большая часть сохранившегося материала, находящаяся в музеях и в крупных университетах западноевропейских стран до сих пор не переведена.

В статье автором сделана попытка обозначить написанные итальянскими послами мемуары, собранные в «Путевых записках венецианцев в Иране» (авторы Катерино Дзено, Иосафат Барбаро, Амброджо Контарини, Винченцо Алессандро, Джиованни Дарио, а также анонимный купец), архитектурные заметки (памятники, панорама городов) составили в них определенную часть, хотя и немногочисленную, многие из них утрачены.

Ключевые слова: архитектура, город, дворцы, источниковедческий материал, путешественники.